

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS & INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS**

<b>Title of Consultancy:</b> Child Health Specialist (Immunization) Tonga	<b>Requesting Section/Hiring Manager:</b> Child Survival and Development	<b>Type of engagement</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant (ZCON) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Contractor (ZIND) <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Contract	<b>Duty Station:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home Based <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office Based <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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**Background and Purpose of Activity/Assignment:**

**Tonga** is a Polynesian Kingdom comprised of over 170 islands, 36 of which are inhabited. The total area of the islands amounts to 747km<sup>2</sup>, spread over an area of around 700,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the Pacific Ocean. Tonga is made up of four main island groups: Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai, and Niuatoputapu and Niuafu'ou. The capital is Nuku'alofa. The total population is estimated at 107,000. Most of Tonga's population live in rural areas compared to urban areas. The government is the main provider of health services in Tonga and 90% of health services are delivered from four hospitals in the country. The government is the main financier of the health system (47%), with considerable funding also from donors (38%). The immunization service is delivered as a public service, with no services being provided in the private sector. It is estimated that 70% of immunization services are delivered through by fixed site services, 20% by outreach and 10% home to home services. Reported immunization coverage rates varies between 78% to 96% (DTP3), and 80%-91% (BCG).

**Disease burden of pneumonia, diarrhea and cervical cancer:** A Tongan study in 2017 found an incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease (pneumococcal meningitis and sepsis) of 113 per 100,000 in children under the age of two, with a case fatality rate of 25%. Diarrhea is estimated to cause 2% of child deaths under the age of five and it is estimated that RV kills 1.5 per 100,000 children. Unpublished data from Vaiola Hospital shows an incidence of cervical cancer of 11.2 cases per 100,000 women, recorded in 2017. Mortality rate from cervical cancer is approximately 3.9 per 100,000 women, and there are approximately 5 new advanced cervical cancer cases seen each year. Similar to data for other diseases, this data is likely to be underrepresented due to lack of a nation-wide screening program, e.g. pap smear, and awareness amongst women to identify early danger signs for diagnosis, particularly at the sub-national levels.

To reduce disease burden of pneumonia, diarrhoea and cervical cancer the Governments of Tonga recognizes the importance of expanding their immunization programs with the addition of three new vaccines: human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and rotavirus (RV) vaccine and using the introduction of these vaccines to strengthen immunization programs, health systems and regional cooperation. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB") and UNICEF will provide financial support to the Government of Tonga to reduce the disease burden of three vaccine preventable diseases, cervical cancer, rotavirus and pneumococcal disease, and to strengthen immunization programs through Systems Strengthening for Effective Coverage of New Vaccines.

UNICEF will provide technical assistance to Tonga government to procure vaccines (HPV, PCV, RV and COVID 19) through the Existing VII Agreement. UNICEF will procure and install WHO Performance, Quality and Safety (PQS) pre-qualified cold chain equipment.

UNICEF will build the capacity of the MOH to establish and strengthen the reaching every child approach as part of the introduction of new vaccines and strengthen new vaccine integration into routine immunization services. This will entail microplanning, outreach services, supportive supervision, strengthening production, quality and use of data for decision making, and linking services with communities. As part of this approach effective catch-up campaigns will also be prioritized including the planning of HPV school-based campaigns. UNICEF will provide advisory services upon request to the Government in leveraging existing community structures through partnerships with Ministry of Health and other Ministries, non-government and civil society organizations, community and church leaders and other local community groups on vaccine awareness and in developing vaccine communication material to address vaccine hesitancy concerns improve public health knowledge, attitude and practice for better overall health seeking behavior and vaccine acceptance.

UNICEF Pacific is seeking a qualified and skilled international consultant for Tonga to provide technical guidance and expertise for strengthening routine Immunization, human resource capacity building, vaccine management, immunization supply chain, and embedding the reaching every child approach into the system as the main approach to the introduction of three new vaccines.

UNICEF recently signed an output agreement with the Ministry of Health in Tonga for procurement and installation of cold chain equipment and the provision of technical services for new vaccines introduction, cold chain maintenance, and immunization programme strengthening. The output agreement follows funding from the ADB to the Government of Tonga to reduce the disease burden of three vaccine preventable diseases, cervical cancer, rotavirus infection and pneumococcal diseases, and to strengthen their immunization programmes through system strengthening for effective coverage of new vaccines.

The deliverables and results from this consultancy will be used by the MoH for the introduction of three new vaccines, to strengthen the routine immunization and to increase the immunization coverage.

The Consultant will guide the MoH on the readiness of the country to introduce new vaccines (PCV, Rota, HPV and COVID-19) and will provide the government with the requisite policy, guideline and job aids following the global standard, and provide overall coordination for UNICEF's work on new vaccine introduction activities in the two countries. As a result, the MoH will be able to close the gaps for all components of the routine immunization including vaccine management, planning, monitoring, data management.

**Scope of Work:**

The Child Health Consultant will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Tonga and other partners including integrated project management team (IPM), to plan and coordinate the implementation of the introduction of three new vaccines. The Consultant will build the capacity/collaborate and oversee with the Government in the lead the following work assignment:

1. Update immunization and cold chain policies, guidelines, training materials and job aids; standard operating procedures to include the new vaccines and meet international best practice.
2. Develop implementation guide for the introduction of the new vaccines
3. Develop training materials and training plan on routine immunization and new vaccines introduction
4. Conduct and facilitate required trainings -train health workers through training/ workshops and on-the-job training in vaccine administration, routine and adverse event reporting, inventory

- management, preventative maintenance, supportive supervision, and supply chain management;
5. Build the capacity of health workers on health facility level microplanning, procurement forecasting for all vaccines, buffer stock maintenance; and evidence-based planning for routine integrated outreach with an equity focus;
  6. Assess the country readiness for the three new vaccines and facilitate the introduction of the three new vaccines
  7. Update the child health cards, record keeping forms, reporting templates and cold chain monitoring
  8. Provide technical guidance to the MOH to generate robust data through training on data quality self-assessment
  9. Develop the HPV campaign plan and an implementation guide for health workers
  10. Facilitate and build the capacity of MOH in the preparation of funding request (FACE and ICE) for the implementation of workplan activities
  11. Provide monthly updates on workplan progress
  12. Act as UNICEF focal point for VII in Tonga for its expansion of operations to cover the new vaccines
  13. Embed reaching every child strategy in the Tonga routine immunization programme.
  14. Assist the government in emergency preparedness and response
  15. Prepare regular/mandated project reports for MOH and UNICEF and keep them informed of project progress.
  16. Identify, capture, synthesize and share lessons learned for knowledge management and to build capacity of stakeholders.
  17. Advise MoH as requested on development and printing of materials for communication strategy addressing vaccine hesitancy and benefits of immunization including aids for community mobilization and engagement with gender considerations and school-based strategy.
  18. Participate in HIS coordination guiding the inclusion of new vaccines in HIS reporting.
  19. Any other tasks assigned by the supervisor when needed.

**Reasons why consultancy cannot be done by staff:**

Given the mentioned scope and quality of deliverables and the prevailing workload of staff members at the UNICEF Pacific, such an additional support from an experience consultant is required. This consultancy is at the P3 level.

**Included in Annual/Rolling Workplan:**  Yes  No, please justify:

**Included in Workforce Planner:**  Yes  No, please justify:

**Consultant selection method:**

- Competitive Selection (Desk Review/Roster)
- Competitive Selection (Advertisement)
- Single Source (emergency response) Head of Office approval

**Start Date: 15 December 2020**

**End Date: 15 November 2021**

**Number of Days (working) 11.5 months**

<b>Work Assignment Overview</b>			
<b>Tasks/Milestone:</b>	<b>Deliverables/Outputs:</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Payment Amount</b>
Prepare workplan and inception report	Inception report with detailed workplan with timeline approved by UNICEF	End on Month 1	5 %
Review and update immunization and cold chain policy, strategy, SOPs and guidelines Child Health cards, record keeping forms, reporting forms, Temperature monitoring and AEFI	Updated immunization and cold chain policy, strategy, SOPs and guidelines Child Health cards, record keeping forms, reporting forms, Temperature monitoring and AEFI	End on Month 2	8%
Develop implementation guidelines for three new vaccine introductions.	Implementation guidelines for three new vaccine introductions developed	End on Month 3	8%
Develop cold chain equipment requirement and update cold chain equipment inventory	Cold chain equipment requirements and cold chain equipment inventory updated	End on Month 4	8%
Development of training package - on introduction of new vaccines, strengthening routine immunization practices, microplanning and integrated disease management approach for prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhea	Developed training package - on introduction of new vaccines, strengthening routine immunization practices, microplanning and integrated disease management approach for prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhea	End on Month 5	8%
Training for new vaccine introductions, strengthening routine immunization practices, microplanning and integrated disease management approach for prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhea and immunization supply chain and cold chain management	Completed training for new vaccine introductions, strengthening routine immunization practices, microplanning and integrated disease management approach for prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhea and immunization supply chain and cold chain management	End on Month 6	8%

Build the capacity of health workers on health facility level microplanning, procurement forecasting for all vaccines, buffer stock maintenance; and evidence-based planning for routine integrated outreach with an equity focus;	Capacity building on vaccine forecasting, procurement, setting up alert mechanisms for vaccine shortages, overstocks and wastage	End on Month 7	8%
Develop the HPV campaign plan and an implementation guide for health workers	HPV school-based planning and training with messaging on the importance of HPV vaccine to cervical cancer prevention	End on Month 8	8%
Embed reaching every child strategy in the Tonga routine immunization programme	Annual micro-planning at district and facilities levels	End on Month 9	8%
Support installation of cold chain equipment and associated supplies to all recipient sites	Installation of cold chain equipment and associated supplies to all recipient sites	End on Month 10	8%
Develop HPV campaign implementation guidelines and conduct HPV campaign training	HPV campaign implementation guidelines developed and conducted HPV campaign training	End on Month 11	8%
Support the HPV Campaign	Support HPV campaign	End on Month 11.5	5%
Prepare regular/mandated project reports for MOH and UNICEF and keep them informed of project progress	Updated workplan status quarterly on SharePoint or google live link with monthly and annual reports submitted	End on Month 11.5	10%

Please note that consultant estimated total cost may include additional costs, such as living costs as applicable

**Minimum Qualifications required:**

Bachelors  Masters  PhD  Other

Enter Disciplines

Post-graduate qualifications in epidemiology and public health, medical science or equivalent

**Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required:**

- At least 5 years' experience working in low- or middle-income settings
- At least 5 years relevant experience in implementing immunization programme in low- or middle-income settings, new vaccine introduction experience, an advantage
- Minimum of 5 years working in child health, working in child health in low- or middle-income settings, an advantage
- Familiarity with WHO/UNICEF guidelines in child health and immunization

- Experience working in an international development context, particularly PICs, an advantage
- Proficiency with relevant Windows-based technology at a high level, especially Microsoft Office
- Ability to work independently, under pressure, and within deadlines, including strong planning and coordination skills
- High-level communication and cross-cultural skills